

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

SARAH THERESS COKER,  
vs.  
KILOLO KIJAKAZI, Acting  
Commissioner of Social Security,  
Defendant.

Plaintiffs,  
NO: 2:21-CV-0330-TOR  
ORDER OF DISMISSAL

On November 19, 2021, a Complaint was filed in this case. ECF No. 1. A Summons was issued the same day. ECF No. 3. On December 7, 2021, *pro se* Plaintiff Sarah T. Coker filed proof of service by mail on the Social Security Administration in Seattle, Washington. ECF No. 5. No other proof of service was provided.

On June 2, 2023, the Court ordered Plaintiff to show cause on or before June 23, 2023 why this case should not be dismissed for failure to properly and timely serve the Summons and Complaint upon the United States. ECF No. 6.

1 According to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 4(i)(1), in order to serve  
2 a United States agency the Plaintiff must serve the United States: (1) by serving the  
3 United States Attorney for the district where the action is brought; (2) sending by  
4 registered or certified mail to the Attorney General of the United States at  
5 Washington, D.C.; and (3) sending by registered or certified mail to the agency.  
6 Plaintiff has not shown compliance with Rule 4(i)(1). According to Federal Rule  
7 of Civil Procedure Rule 4(m):

8 If a defendant is not served within 90 days after the complaint is filed, the  
9 court—on motion or on its own after notice to the plaintiff—must dismiss  
the action without prejudice against that defendant or order that service be  
made within a specified time. But if the plaintiff shows good cause for the  
failure, the court must extend the time for service for an appropriate period.

11 Because of this strict requirement, the Local Civil Rules for this District  
12 provide that a “plaintiff shall promptly file proof of service of the summons and  
13 complaint with the Clerk of Court after service has been accomplished.” LCivR  
14 4(l).

15 On June 21, 2023, Plaintiff requested a continuance until July 23, 2023 so  
16 that she could meet with an attorney on July 18, 2023. ECF No. 7. The requested  
17 time for continuance has now passed. Plaintiff has not shown good cause for the  
18 failure to timely serve the Summons and Complaint upon the United States.  
19 Plaintiff has had ample time to comply with Local Civil Rule 4(l).

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1       The Court dismisses Plaintiff's Complaint, which was filed almost two years  
2 ago, for failure to properly and timely serve the Summons and Complaint upon the  
3 United States.

4       Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3), “[a]n appeal may not be taken *in forma*  
5 *pauperis* if the trial court certifies in writing that it is not taken in good faith.” The  
6 good faith standard is an objective one, and good faith is demonstrated when an  
7 individual “seeks appellate review of any issue not frivolous.” *See Coppedge v.*  
8 *United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962). For purposes of 28 U.S.C. § 1915, an  
9 appeal is frivolous if it lacks any arguable basis in law or fact. *Neitzke v. Williams*,  
10 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989).

11       The Court finds that any appeal of this Order would not be taken in good  
12 faith and would lack any arguable basis in law or fact. Accordingly, the Court  
13 hereby revokes Plaintiff's *in forma pauperis* status. If Plaintiff seeks to pursue an  
14 appeal, she must pay the requisite filing fee.

15 **ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

16       1. Plaintiff's Request for Continuance (ECF No. 7) is **DENIED as moot**.  
17       2. This case is **DISMISSED**.  
18       3. The Court certifies pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal of  
19 this Order would not be taken in good faith and would lack any arguable

1 basis in law or fact. Plaintiff's *in forma pauperis* status is hereby

2 **REVOKED.**

3 The District Court Executive is hereby directed to enter this Order and  
4 Judgment, furnish a copy to Plaintiff, and **CLOSE** the file.

5 DATED July 27, 2023.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas O. Rice".

6  
7 THOMAS O. RICE  
8 United States District Judge  
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